

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EPG-02 AGR-10 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-07 AF-10
ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00
L-03 SSO-00 /097 W

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O 130906Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5255

UNCLAS ROME 9695

FODAG

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, EAGR

SUBJ: 71 ST FAO COUNCIL - PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET 1978-79

1. THIRTY-FIVE MEMBERS AND FIVE OBSERVERS SPOKE DURING THE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THIS ITEM. U.S. STATEMENT EARLIER REPORTED. SINCE THIS WAS ONLY A REVIEW OF THE SUMMARY PROGRAM AND BUDGET MANY MEMBERS GAVE SOMEWHAT GENERAL RATHER THAN SPECIFIC VIEWS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME RESERVATIONS ON THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TCP) THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE PRIORITIES WHICH FAO HAD SUGGESTED IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT CL 71/3. THERE ALSO WAS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR DECENTRALIZATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAO COUNTRY OFFICES. MANY COUNTRIES EXPRESSED THE DESIRE FOR COUNTRY OFFICES IN THEIR CAPITALS AND PRAISED THE TCP THROUGH WHICH ASSISTANCE HAD SPEEDILY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

2. ONLY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES RAISED ANY CAUTION ABOUT THE TCP. FOLLOWING THE U.S. LEAD, ITALY, FRANCE, CANADA, THE NETHERLANDS, THE UK, JAPAN AND GERMANY SUPPORTED SOME FORM OF EVALUATION BEFORE THE 1980-81 BIENNIAL. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNDP AS THE CENTRAL SOURCE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING WAS CITED BY SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND BOTH DC'S AND LDC'S ENDORSED CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES

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AND FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES.

3. MOST LDC'S SUPPORTED THE PROPOSED BUDGET LEVEL OF DLR 206.8 MILLION FOR 1977-78 AS A MODEST AMOUNT. SOME SUGGESTED HIGHER. THE UK INDICATED THEY COULD ACCEPT LEVEL. JAPAN, THE RFG AND CANADA ENCOURAGED UNSPECIFIED REDUCTIONS. OTHER DC'S INCLUDING U.S. RESERVED THEIR BUDGET LEVEL POSITION PENDING A

REVIEW OF THE DETAILED PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET AT THE NOVEMBER CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENTS ON PROGRAM ACTIVITIES RANGED WIDELY. AMONG THOSE MOST FREQUENTLY CITED AS IMPORTANT WERE NUTRITION, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER RESOURCES, INVESTMENT, RESEARCH, POST-HARVEST LOSSES AND FERTILIZERS. SEVERAL COUNTRIES ENDORSED THE U.S. COMMENT ON A GREATER ROLE FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE. IFAD RESOURCES WERE EAGERLY AWAITED BY A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS CAUTIONED THAT INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL COUNTRIES NOT BE OVERLOOKED. FAO'S COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY UNCTAD AND COMMODITIES, WERE CITED. EGYPT ASKED THAT REGIONAL CONFERENCES MEET AT FOUR RATHER THAN TWO-YEAR INTERVALS.

5. IN CLOSING REMARKS DIRECTOR GENERAL EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR SINCERE BUT HARMONIOUS VIEWS PRESENTED. REGARDING TCP AND EVALUATION HE SAID HE BELIEVES THE ONLY FORM OF EVALUATION ACCEPTABLE IS ONE WHICH RESPECTS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SELECTING AND IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS. HE SAID HE COULD NOT EMBARK ON AN EVALUATION DESIGNED TO DETERMINE IF THE SAME RESULTS COULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY OTHER FUNDS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT FINDING GENUINELY INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS OR REALLY EXPERT PERSONS WHO COULD SATISFY MEMBERS OF THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS AND LOCAL SITUATIONS IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

6. NEVERTHELESS, SAOUMA CONCLUDED THAT HE RECOGNIZED "THE NEED TO JUSTIFY EXPENDITURES ON THE TCP IN TERMS OF ADHERENCE TO

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APPROVED CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES AND EFFECTIVENESS". HE SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER THE BEST WAY TO SET UP A SATISFACTORY EVALUATION PROCESS WHICH COULD PROVIDE A SUITABLE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL IN 1978. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUDGETS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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